



Watford City's Community Coalition
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Watford City Awarded Substance Abuse Prevention Assistance

Watford City, N.D. – This fall the Watford City's Community Coalition applied for assistance developing effective local substance abuse prevention efforts. In November, the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division notified the group they had been selected.

"Upper Missouri District Health Unit is excited to be a member of the Watford City Community Coalition," said Marcia Washburn, PHN for the Upper Missouri District Health Unit. "Historically our Youth Risk Behavior Survey results have not been where we would like to see them and we support this additional step in our progress towards changing them."

According to the 2009 Watford City High School Youth Risk Behavior survey, 49% (state average is 44%) of students reported having at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days and 40% (state average is 31%) of students reported binge drinking on one or more days of the past 30 days.

Community members will work with the State Prevention Team specialists to develop unique plans to address and prevent alcohol and other substance abuse. Watford City and the Watford City Community Coalition will receive guidance identifying goals, implementing effective strategies and evaluating community progress. Areas of focus will include education, workplace wellness, treatment, law enforcement, and public awareness.

"I am pleased to start working with the community members of Watford City," said Thomas Volk, community prevention specialist for the division. "North Dakotans believe it is possible to reduce alcohol and drug problems through prevention¹ and Watford City is eager to move forward to create local-level change."

Volk is the department liaison to Watford City and the Watford City Community Coalition.

Applications were reviewed based on community needs, resources, funding, readiness, past and present prevention efforts, partnerships, and vision. These areas will all be identified when the planning process begins. The first meeting with the team was held on Dec. 14.

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¹ Of those surveyed, 92 percent of N.D. community members believe it is possible to reduce alcohol and drug problems through prevention (CRS, 2008)

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